shop-cum-residential premises at 266 and 267 Bowbazar Street at Calcutta. One three-storeyed and one two-storeyed buildings were demolished in this explosion, resulting in the death of 67 persons and injuries to 92 persons. Damage was caused to four adjouning houses.

(c) and (d) As per available information, the state government have started a suo-moto case in the matter and investigation taken up under the supervision of very senior officers. Two persons, Md. Rashid Khan and Abdul Aziz have been arrested. The state government have informed that all aspects of the case are being probed with a view to bringing to book all those responsible for the incident.

People of Indian Origin in Foreign Countries

*472. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of people of Indian origin in foreign countries at present, country-wise;

(b) what is the number of Stateless persons of Indian origin in those countries;

(c) whether these persons are alleged to be undergoing deprivation of economic as well as fundamental rights;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in the matter;

(e) whether Government have taken any steps for their repatriation to India;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor:

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) A statement is given in the Annexure (*See* Appendix CLXVI, Annexure No. 66]

(b) to (g) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Request from Punjab Government for manufacture of alcohol

*473 SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Punjab Government for the issue of Letter of Intent for the manufacture of 54 lac litres per annum of extra natural alcohol (for captive use) and 135 lac litres per annum of India made foreign liquor from damaged grains is pending with the Central Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MNISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) The Punjab Agro Industrial Corporation has applied for licence for the manufacture of extra neutral alcohol, Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), Impure Spirit and Cattle feed. The project envisages use of Spoiled wheat/rice as raw material. No final decision has been taken on this application.

Performance of Oil India Ltd

*474. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil India Ltd. has been showing a gra-

dual decline in production since it has been declared a Public Sector Undertaking;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to improve the performance of the Oil India Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) While the production of crude oil by Oil India Limited has been more or less static, the production and sale of natural gas and LPG has increased.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Restriction Imposed by Pakistan on Indian Visitors

*475. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has imposed fresh restrictions on the Indians visiting Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof standing the reasons for imposing the restrictions by Pakistan;

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government have imposed/propose to impose similar restrictions on Pakistan visiting this country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of Pakistan have announced a restrictive visa regime for Indian nationals wehreby first visa applicants are expected to obtain a sponsorship certificate from their relatives or sponsors in Pakistan and, secondly, visa applications by Indian nationals would be subject to preverification by the Pakistani ties. In addition, Pakistan has proposed an increase both in visa fee and in fee for extension of visa.

(c) Government regret that these recent negative measures in visa policies of Pakistan would impede trevel between the two countries and reduce people-to people contacts. Government have urged Pakistan to abide by the India-Pakistan Visa Agreement of 1974 which provides for easy travel between the two countries.

Government have suggested to Pakistan the convening of a meeting of the Sub-Commission IV of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission which deals with visa and consular related matters.

(d) Govt. have not imposed any corresponding restrictions.

Ban on Political Parties|Organisations

*476. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the organisations/political parties/Groups which have been banned by the Union Government so far;

(b) the number of persons belonging to such organisations/groups/parties arrested so far State-wise and party-wise indicating the number thereof released so far if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to lift the ban on Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal etc. if so, by when; and

(d) whether the tribunals constituted in this regard have gone into the justification for imposing the ban if so, the details thereof?